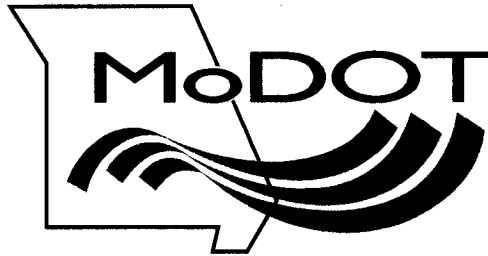


Missouri
Department
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Dear Local Agencies:

MoDOT has embarked on a new and exciting project design philosophy known as Practical Design. The intent of this new design philosophy is to deliver to Missouri citizens more projects that are practical and safe for the situation. I am sure everyone agrees Missouri has a long list of necessary improvements, both on the MoDOT and on the city and county transportation systems.

The basic idea of the new philosophy is to change the way MoDOT looks at projects. What MoDOT has been doing is not wrong, however, it has resulted in nice spot improvements at the expense of the overall system condition. Going forward, MoDOT intends to make the available funds stretch over more of the system. Fixing only what needs to be fixed and improving safety where there are documented safety problems will accomplish this. MoDOT will not add improvements to the project just because we happen to be in the area. The savings from this Practical Design approach will be used to fund additional projects, which means the total system will get better faster.

As administrator of federal funds for off-system projects, MoDOT will extend this philosophy to local programs. Greater flexibility will be given on these project designs, based on sound engineering judgment. MoDOT will no longer rely on current standards to provide a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, each project will be evaluated to provide a reasonable, economic and safer design concept.

Since there may be some missteps along the way, please be patient with us as MoDOT implements this new philosophy during the coming weeks and months. It's a big change for us and for the consultants designing your projects. We will start using the philosophy now, but it will take some time to revise the Local Public Agency Manual.

Please contact us if you have questions. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dave Nichols
Director of Project Development